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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : TAHARA et al.  
Corresponding Int'l Appln. No. : PCT/JP00/00629  
International Filing Date : 4 February 2000  
Priority Dates Claimed : 5 February 1999  
For : **ENCODING SYSTEM AND METHOD,  
DECODING SYSTEM AND METHOD,  
MULTIPLEXING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD, AND DISPLAY SYSTEM AND  
METHOD**

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Date of Deposit: October 3, 2000

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(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows: